

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An animal ~~breeding~~ bedding material or article comprising a basic amino acid cellulose partial ester or a salt thereof as the effective constituting component.

2. (Currently Amended) The animal ~~breeding~~ bedding material or article of Claim 1, wherein said basic amino acid cellulose partial ester or a salt thereof is in a form selected from the group consisting of fabric, non-woven fabric, fiber and powder.

3. (Currently Amended) The animal ~~breeding~~ bedding material or article of Claim 1, wherein said basic amino acid cellulose partial ester has a chemical structure wherein the carboxyl group of a basic amino acid and the hydroxyl group(s) of cellulose are subjected to dehydration to form a covalent ester bond.

4. (Currently Amended) The animal ~~breeding~~ bedding material or article of Claim 1, wherein the basic amino acid cellulose partial ester has a basic amino acid moiety selected from the group consisting of lysine, arginine, ornithine, and histidine.

5. (Currently Amended) The animal ~~breeding~~ bedding material or article of Claim 4, wherein the basic amino acid cellulose partial ester is selected from the group consisting of a lysine cellulose partial ester, an arginine cellulose partial ester, an ornithine cellulose partial ester and a histidine cellulose partial ester.

6. (Currently Amended) The animal ~~breeding~~ bedding material or article of Claim 1, wherein the basic amino acid cellulose partial ester has a degree of substitution for esterification ranging from 0.00001 to less than 3.

7. (Currently Amended) The animal ~~breeding~~ bedding material or article of Claim 1, wherein the basic amino acid cellulose partial ester is in a salt form.

8. (Currently Amended) The animal ~~breeding~~ bedding material or article of Claim 7, wherein the salt of the salt form of the basic amino acid cellulose partial ester is an organic

acid salt selected from the group consisting of an acetate, a lactate, a malate, a tartrate, a succinate, a citrate, a benzoate, and a pyrrolidonecarboxylate.

9. (Currently Amended) The animal ~~breeding~~ bedding material or article of Claim 7, wherein the salt of the salt form of the basic amino acid cellulose partial ester is an inorganic acid salt selected from the group consisting of a hydrochloride, a sulfate, and a phosphate.

10. (Currently Amended) The animal ~~breeding~~ bedding material or article of Claim 7, wherein the salt of the salt form of the basic amino acid cellulose partial ester is a Lewis acid salt.

11. (Currently Amended) The animal ~~breeding~~ bedding material or article of Claim 10, wherein the Lewis acid salt is zinc chloride.

12. (Currently Amended) In a method of breeding animals where the improvement comprises employing an animal ~~breeding~~ bedding material or article of Claim 1 as an antibacterial deodorizing agent for animals selected from the group consisting of an excrement disposing agent for animals, an underlay for animals, an antibacterial deodorant sheet and an antibacterial deodorant pad.

13. – 19. (Canceled)